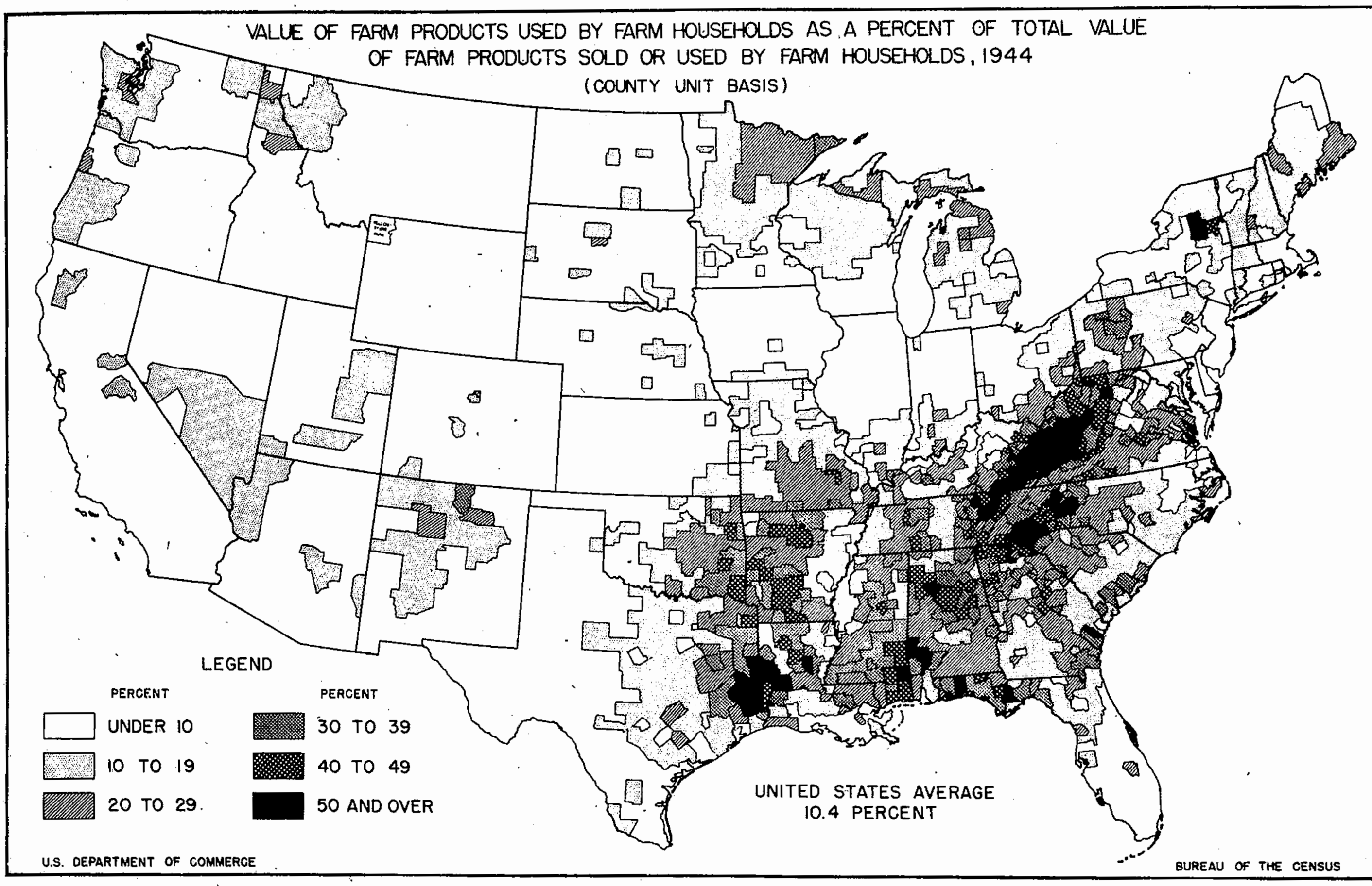

INCOME FROM FARM PRODUCTION IN RELATION TO LAND USE

Record farm incomes in the years during and subsequent to the war stemmed from increases both in price levels and in the production of most crop and livestock products. In 1944, about 90 percent of the more than 18 billion dollars reported as the value of farm products sold or used by farm households represented products sold; the remaining 10 percent, products used by farm households. Crops accounted for 46.2, livestock and livestock products for 53.3, and forest products for 0.5 percent of the sales. Field crops comprised three-fourths of the value of crop sales and dairy and poultry products nearly one-half the value of sales of livestock and livestock products. In considering these data, as reported by the Census, it should be noted that (a) inventory changes are not reflected; (b) value of sales of livestock and livestock products do not account for any purchasing of livestock but include returns from crops fed, both of which tend to increase the relative value of this item; and (c) values of farm products were understated in some instances where net rather than gross values were reported.

The ten leading States in value-of-crop sales were, in order, California, Texas, North Carolina, Illinois, Kansas, North Dakota, Mississippi, Washington, Iowa, and Georgia. Utilization of a high proportion of the cropland in all of these States is identified with the production of such crops as wheat, fruits, vegetables, cotton, and tobacco; and in Illinois and Iowa, of corn and other grains for cash sale. The ten leading States in the value of sales of livestock and livestock products were Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Texas, California, Missouri, Ohio, Indiana, and New York. When the values of sales of crops and sales of livestock and livestock products were combined, the ten leading States, again in order, were California, Iowa, Texas, Illinois, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Kansas, Nebraska, Ohio, and New York. The correlation of values of sales of farm products with geographic concentration of cropland harvested, particularly of forage and feed crops, can be visualized when it is noted that one-half the values from all sales, and over three-fifths of the values from livestock and livestock products sales were reported in the Corn Belt, the Lake, and the Plains States. Cropland harvested in these 14 States comprised two-thirds; feed crops, three-quarters; and forage crops, three-fifths of the Nation's total.

The value of crop sales in proportion to the value of all farm products was highest in (a) cotton- and tobacco-farming areas of the Piedmont and the Coastal Plains provinces of the Southeastern States; (b) Florida citrus fruit and winter vegetable areas; (c) Tennessee valley in northern Alabama; (d) tobacco-farming areas of southern Maryland and central Kentucky; (e) feed grains area in east central Illinois; (f) Mississippi Delta and adjoining uplands; (g) rice and sugarcane areas of southern Louisiana; (h) cotton- and wheat-farming centers of the High Plains of western Kansas, the Panhandle, southwestern Oklahoma and northwest Texas; (i) spring-wheat areas of North Dakota and Montana; (j) Columbia Basin wheat-farming area of the Pacific Northwest; and (k) other areas of specialization in crops extending from the Aroostook potato country in northern Maine to the Western States where a wide range of special crops, such as fruits and vegetables, cotton, and sugar beets, were grown under irrigation. The proportionate value of all farm products reported which accrued from crop sales was lowest in areas dominated by the dairy industry in the Northeastern and the Lake States; in the hill and mountain areas of West Virginia, eastern Kentucky, and the Missouri Ozarks; and in the counties of the West where the range industry provides the main source of income.

The proportion of the value of farm products provided by sales of livestock and livestock products was greatest in those sections of the country where utilization of the land is identified with emphasis upon feed and forage production. In the Northeastern, the Corn Belt, and the Lake States, the use of feed or forage crops for dairy, poultry, and other farm livestock was in the ascendancy over all uses of farm land, although pastures occupied a substantial proportion of the area in all these States. This same primary reliance of the livestock industry upon production from land in feed and forage crops was also evident in southeastern South Dakota and in northeastern Nebraska. West of the Missouri River in South Dakota and in the sand-hills area of Nebraska, the beef-cattle industry, in contrast, relies upon utilization of the large acreage of nontillable land for grazing purposes, supplemented principally by forage provided by the cutting of native grasses for hay. The beef-cattle industry in the Flint Hills of southeastern Kansas and northeastern Oklahoma and in the Missouri Ozarks is similarly based upon a combination of grazing, supplementary crop uses, and, in the latter, of a combination of these uses with forest utilization. The preponderance of values of farm products from sales of livestock throughout the Western States and in southwest Texas was associated with the long-standing utilization of the rough and dry areas which comprise the western range for grazing of beef cattle, sheep, and, on the Edwards Plateau of Texas, of goats.

The proportion of the value of farm products used by farm households was greatest in 1944 where production for home subsistence has long been characteristic of the farm economy and where values of sales have customarily been lowest. This production for home use has traditionally been associated with such factors as limited cropland resources and with remoteness or inaccessibility to markets. Farms with a high proportion of the value of products used by farm households were prevalent throughout much of the originally forested area of the eastern and southern parts of the United States, the upper Lake States, the shoe-string valleys of the Pacific Northwest, and in a number of areas of the Southwest.